



# MSA Newsletter

A newsletter for Member Schools of Marist Schools Australia published fortnightly during term time



*From Dr Frank Malloy*

Dear Colleagues,

Last week at the Catholic Leadership Centre in Melbourne, Marist Schools Australia held its biennial conference. 180 people attended this prayerful and provocative gathering, with representatives from schools across the nation. Renowned Australian Theologian Father Kevin Lenehan was the keynote speaker over two days. Father Kevin presented a detailed analysis of trends in religious beliefs in Australian society based upon the most recent 2016 census figures. Stark in his discourse was the growth in percentage of Australians identifying as “non religious”, representing 30.1 % of respondents, compared to just 16.5% in 1996. Whilst “Christian” was the dominant identifying group in the 2016 census, with 52.1%, when compared with 70.9% of Australians identifying as Christian in 1996, the trend is obvious.

Within this social milieu, we as Marists seek to be evangelisers, bringing the joy of the Gospel to young people and their families. In the face of such mounting indifference to religion, a sense of hopelessness could easily take hold. However, Father Kevin shared results of detailed research in the United States by Vern Bengston et al (2013), which examined how religion is passed on across generations. For young people as they grow to adulthood, the importance of credible and authentic “witness” by significant adults in their life, most often parents and teachers, was found to be a major influence in their faith development. Of course this is not new to our Catholic tradition and Marist intuitions. St Francis of Assisi famously said, “Preach the Gospel always, and if necessary use words!” St Marcellin taught his Brothers, “Education is assimilated more easily and makes a deeper impression by way of the eyes than by way of the ears.” (Opinions, Conferences, XLI, pp. 310 – 312). Experiencing the spirit, prayerfulness, joy, and enthusiasm of the school leaders gathered at the conference and their earnest dedication to our prime responsibility of evangelisation, it is clear the young people in our Marist schools will see and experience multiple expressions of God’s love and their faith will hopefully continue to flourish in adult life.

A significant moment at the Conference was the formal welcome to Marist Schools Australia of Holy Family Primary School in Parkes. The Marists have had a long association with the Parishes in central western NSW in the Diocese of Wilcannia/Forbes, and this development will further strengthen the relationship for many years to come.

Yours sincerely

*F. Malloy*

**Dr Frank Malloy**  
NATIONAL DIRECTOR



Br Peter Carroll, Provincial, and Frank Malloy presented Denise Gersbach, Principal of Holy Family Primary school with the Marist Schools Australia Certificate of Membership.

## COMING UP...

6-9 Aug Footsteps1 - Mittagong  
 12 Aug Bicentenary Mass - Brisbane, Sydney, Melbourne  
 11-13 Aug Remar Gold Retreat VIC  
 16-19 Aug Contemplative Retreat  
 25-27 Aug Remar Gold Retreat NSW  
 26-27 Aug Marist Educational Leadership Program  
 27-30 Aug Footsteps1 - Mittagong

1 Sept Remar Red Helm Inservice QLD  
 4 Sept Marist Leaders Next Gen 1 Brisbane  
 6 Sept Marist Oratory Competition  
 7-8 Sept Marist Deputy Principals Meeting, Adelaide  
 8 Sept Remar Red Helm Inservice VIC  
 10-13 Sept Footsteps2 - Mittagong  
 15 Sept Remar Red Helm Inservice NSW



*Marist Daily Prayer App*

Have you  
**downloaded**  
the Marist Prayer  
App yet?

**CLICK HERE** to read what a  
member of the Association had to  
say about the Prayer App.



## Called to be Leaders

### MARIST DEPUTY/ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS MEETING

Marist Schools Australia will host the Inaugural National Marist Deputy/Assistant Principals Meeting with guest presenter, Australian Catholic Educator, Dr Mark Turkington.

**Thursday 7 September - Friday 8 September 2017**

**Brother Joseph McAteer Centre  
Sacred Heart College**

**195 Brighton Road, Somerton Park, Adelaide**  
(own arrangements for all travel and accommodation)

**REGISTER HERE**

### CHILD PROTECTION SUNDAY 10 September 2017

The Australian Catholic *Ordo* lists Child Protection Sunday for 10 September 2017. The Sunday concludes Child Protection Week celebrated across Australia.

The National Committee for Professional Standards have provided resources for Child Protection Sunday.

[Child Protection Sunday 2017 Resources](#)



### LAVALLA / CHAMPAGNAT JOURNAL

Yes, both publications are alive and well, and they will come your way shortly! The magazine and the journal are published by Marist Schools Australia and are an important form of communication with all of our Marist Ministries.

The next edition will be an 'extended edition' with plenty to look at and to read. The cut-off date for all contributions to the next edition is **Friday 25th August 2017**. All contributions should be emailed to Brother Tony Paterson: [tony.paterson@marists.org.au](mailto:tony.paterson@marists.org.au).

Photographs should be jpg quality preferably with names of the people in them. If you have any queries do not hesitate to contact me on my mobile: 0409 538 433.

It is expected that the next edition will appear in late September if we can meet the above cut-off date for content.



### PRINCIPAL LEADER - PARRAMATTA MARIST HIGH SCHOOL

The Executive Director, Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta (CEDP), invites applications for the leadership position of Principal Leader at Parramatta Marist High School.

We are seeking a creative, contemporary and dynamic leader who will ensure that Parramatta Marist High School will continue to provide its students with the high-quality learning opportunities and experiences for which it has become known.

[CLICK HERE for more information](#)



### SENIOR PROJECT OFFICER - MARIST LEARNING ZONE (MLZ)

We are looking for a Senior Project Officer to provide the Leadership of the Marist Learning Zone (MLZ) Program and Facility to support contemporary learning with a deeply engaging, innovative and authentic manner. The Marist Learning Zone is a joint initiative between Marist Schools Australia and Catholic Education Diocese Parramatta.

[CLICK HERE for more information](#)



# MARIST MISSION AND LIFE FORMATION



## MARIST EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM, 5 - 6 & 26 - 27 August 2017

Participants from across five states of Australia came together at St Joseph's College Hunters Hill on the weekend of August 5-6 to study Marist Educational Leadership. Participants included Jennifer Elvery - Brisbane (Team), Raeleen Austin - Maitland, Paul Brooks and Paul Howe - Hunters Hill, Steve Hooper - Forbes, Chris De Britt and Jane Pamenter - Pearce, Ryan Edwards and Rocky Gentile - Bulleen, John McMahon - Templestowe (Team) and Brenda Byrne - Noarlunga. Participants studied various approaches to leadership and discussed how these impact on Marist education today. The 2018 program will be held at Marist College, Canberra.

## AWAKEN - JOHN TERRY CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL, ROSEMEADOW

On Monday 17 July, John Terry Catholic High School, Rosemeadow, participated in the Awaken program at the Hermitage in Mittagong. Staff were given several workshops including "praying the labyrinth", "art therapy" and "meditation". Brother Anthony Robertson conducted a workshop on "disadvantaged youth and the Mittagong agricultural ministries", whilst, Brother Robert Aitken ran a Marist historical pilgrimage around the property. One staff member commented, "I loved the use of family story, that we sometimes already have the icing on the cake and don't realise it."

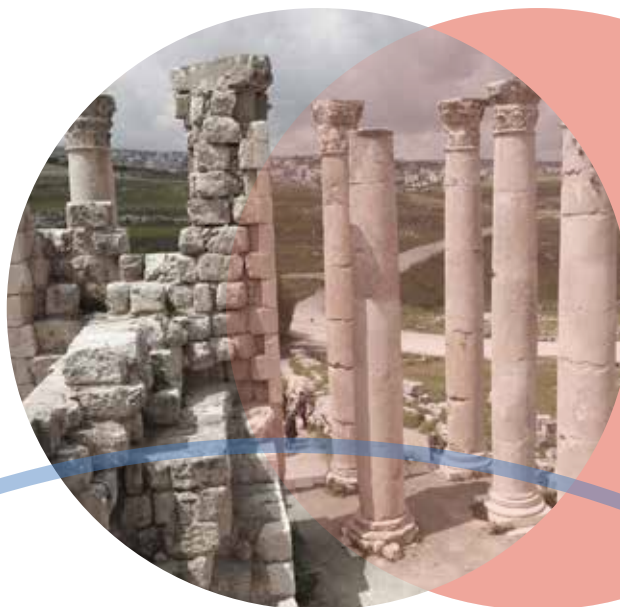


## CARE FOR THE SOUL RETREAT

The Hermitage at Mittagong recently held its fourth 'Care for the Soul' Retreat. This retreat had 16 participants coming from diverse backgrounds. Participants came from Marist schools in Canberra, Mitchell Park, Leeton, Bulleen, Auburn and John Terry High school. We had participants from Catholic Bereavement support, teachers working in CEO schools in Wollongong and Sydney Diocese plus ex-students and some new to the Marist world. One participant commented, "Thank you for this wonderful experience that I will now apply in my everyday life and ministry."

There is one retreat remaining this year in October with a few places available. In 2018 there will be a larger range of retreats available at the Hermitage.





**HOLY LAND  
8 NIGHTS**



**ROME  
3 NIGHTS**



**LYON  
2 NIGHTS  
&  
NOTRE DAME  
DE L'HERMITAGE  
7 NIGHTS**

#### **WHAT YOU NEED TO PROVIDE**

- PASSPORT
- TRAVEL INSURANCE
- SPENDING MONEY

#### **PILGRIMAGE ORIENTATION MEETING**

THERE WILL BE A PILGRIMAGE ORIENTATION MEETING FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS ON EITHER 17 MARCH (MELBOURNE) OR 18 MARCH (SYDNEY) 2018.

#### **COSTS \$10,700 PER PERSON**

SINGLE ROOM ACCOMMODATION IS PROVIDED THROUGHOUT THE PILGRIMAGE.

#### **PRICE INCLUDES**

- AIRFARES (ALL PARTICIPANTS WILL DEPART FROM THEIR CLOSEST CAPITAL CITY)
- TRANSFERS TO AND FROM THE AIRPORT
- TRAIN AND COACH FARES
- MOST MEALS & ACCOMMODATION

#### **FOR FURTHER ENQUIRIES**

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## ALL INVOLVED IN MARIST CAMBODIA COMMUNITY VILLAGE GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY

On Sunday 23 July, 90 students of the Inclusive Education Programme for post school youth and the 103 students at LaValla School, actively participated in the turning of the soil to commence this construction project. Despite the limitations of some physical disabilities, every student joined the staff in taking their turn with the shovel at this momentous and joyful occasion for the Marist project in Takhmao on the edge of the capital Phnom Penh.

The Community Village will comprise 8 residences for students, 2 staff residences and a number of communal facilities such as a dining hall and kitchen, health centre and a study centre for tutoring, library and information technology.

Work will commence on the roads and land preparation this week and then the building construction begins in two months time. A local contractor has been responsible for a creative design of the Village and the project's implementation all of which is under the direction of Mr Sopagna, a senior staff member of Marist Solidarity Cambodia.

The Village represents a long held dream of the Australian Marists who have worked in Cambodia as well as the dedicated Khmer staff. Brother Terry Heinrich, the founder of the LaValla School, has been the main driving force of this innovative response to care of young Cambodians leaving the Marist School for their next phases of education.

Breaking the soil means a dream becomes a reality for the young Cambodians who, because of a physical disability, are often excluded from education especially in the rural provinces. Access to quality Marist education is at the heart of this village.

More details are available on [www.australianmaristsolidarity.org.au](http://www.australianmaristsolidarity.org.au)



MSC Students and staff participating in the ground-breaking ceremony



MSC Director Bunthoeun Cheng and students breaking ground at the MSC Village

**Tony Skinner**

Communications Coordinator, Australian Marist Solidarity



Marist Youth Ministry in Brisbane have been having a great time in June and July! A highlight for us was the Marist Youth Festival and particularly the time we had meeting with all the Queensland participants who braved the cold Sydney weather to enjoy the Festival. There was a real excitement from the Queensland contingent around new and different initiatives that we are working towards animating for 2018.

Caitie also had a great time on Magnetic Island with Burdekin Catholic High School for their Year 12 retreat. The students enjoyed the island experience and each other's company; participating in interactive learning activities; small group discussions; and sessions delivered by staff that challenged and invited the students to personal growth and faith development.

Our Term 3 Connect Night was well attended by our local Brisbane Marist schools. The speaker was Gerard Trolove from Real Talk who spoke to the theme '*The Fearless Few*', encouraging Year 11 and 12 students to be brave in their decision making and to step beyond their fear to have a greater, more positive impact in the community.



The Queensland group meeting together at Marist Youth Festival 2017



Burdekin Catholic High School students enjoying some beach cricket on their Year 12 Retreat



Students from Trinity College Beenleigh, Mt Maria College Mitchelton and Carmel College Thornlands enjoying dinner at our Term 3 Connect Night

**Caitie Humphrys**

MYM Regional Coordinator, Brisbane

**Next Issue: 22 August 2017**



# MARIST SCHOOLS BIENNIAL CONFERENCE

